

WILLIAM SHARROCK.

JUNE 24, 1898.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. GALLINGER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 1918.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1918) granting a pension to William Sharrock, have examined the same and report:

The records of the War Department show that this man was enrolled on July 5, 1861, in Company F, First Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, and was mustered out with company July 8, 1864. There is a record of treatment in the service for diarrhea, and that he was wounded in action.

July 19, 1879, he applied for pension under the general law, alleging shell wound left knee. This was allowed, at \$2 per month from date of discharge, for shell wound of left knee.

Application for increase was rejected October 19, 1889.

July 24, 1890, he filed a claim under the act of June 27, 1890, alleging loss of both arms by premature discharge of a cannon July 4, 1865. This claim was allowed at \$12 per month from date of filing, for loss of both arms.

At his last examination, made in 1891, the board said:

We find right arm lost 6 inches below shoulder joint. Left arm about 6 inches below elbow joint. Both stumps are in a healthy condition.

It will be observed that this soldier is receiving a pension at the maximum rate under the act of June 27, 1890. It further appears that subsequent to his service in the Army he lost both arms in consequence of a premature discharge of a cannon while celebrating the Fourth of July. The present bill asks that his pension shall be increased to \$100 per month. As any increase granted will be a pure gratuity, because of the unfortunate accident that soldier incurred, it is evident that no such increase as the bill calls for can be granted.

Your committee recommend the passage of the bill amended as follows:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and directed to place on the pension roll, subject to the provisions and limitations of the pension laws, the name of William Sharrock, late of Company F, First Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, and pay him a pension at the rate of \$25 per month, in lieu of that he is now receiving.

Also amend the title of the bill so as to read: "A bill granting an increase of pension to William Sharrock."